

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11  
HEW-04 OPR-02 /039 W  
-----020409 221524Z /50  
R 221348Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8719

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SEDU SOCI ZA  
SUBEBC EDUCATION REFORMS ANNOUNCED

1. THE LONG DEBATED EDUCATIONAL REFORMS IN ZAMBIA HAVE FINALLY RECEIVED GOVERNMENT APPROVAL AND WERE ANNOUNCED BY MINISTER GF EDUCATION GOMA ON JUNE 22. THERE ARE FEW CONTROL-VERSIAL CHANGES IN THE EXISTING SYSTEM BUT SOME OMISSIONS MAY INDICATE CHANGES YET TO COME.

2. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IS TO A NEW THREE STAGE SYSTEM WHICH IS TO PROVIDE NINE YEARS OF BASIC EDUCATION TO EVERYONE. THE FIRST STAGE WOULD CONSIST OF SIX YEARS PRIMARY (NOW SEVEN) AND THREE YEARS JUNIOR SECONDARY (NOW THREE) EDUCATION. THE SECOND STAGE WOULD INCLUDE THREE YEARS SENIOR SECONDARY OR TECHNICAL TRAINING AND THE THIRD, UNIVERSITY OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL TRAINING. BECAUSE OF BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS, THE NEW SYSTEM WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO IMPLEMENT.

3. PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND OVERSEAS EDUCATION, ANTICIPATED BY MANY TO BE BANNED, ARE TACITLY PERMITTED UNDER THE GUIDANCE AND CONTROL OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. PERMISSION FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO OPERATE MAY INDICATE THAT THE GRZ REALIZES THAT FINANCING IS NOT AVAILABLE TO MEET THE GROWING DEMAND FOR ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES. THERE IS A CRITICAL SHORTAGE  
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OF SPACE FOR GRADE SEVEN GRADUATES IN FORM 1.

4. AN OMISSION THAT MAY BE SIGNIFICANT IS THAT WHILE SCHOOL FEES (NOT NOW LEVIED) ARE PROHIBITED IN THE FORMS (GRADES 7-9), NO MENTION IS MADE OF FEES FOR THE LOWER PRIMARY GRADES. WHILE IT WOULD BE A DIFFICULT POLITICAL DECISION TO MAKE, THE GOVERNMENT MAY BE LEAVING ITSELF AN OPTION TO CHARGE FEES IN

ORDER TO FINANCE NEW SCHOOLS OR THE SYSTEM IN GENERAL.

5. COMMENT: THE EDUCATIONAL REFORMS AS ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED WOULD HAVE DRAMATICALLY CHANGED THE THRUST OF EDUCATION IN ZAMBIA AWAY FROM THE TRADITIONAL (READ EUROPEAN) TO THE AFRICAN. THE UPROAR WHICH AROSE BACK IN MID-1976 WHEN THE REFORMS WERE ANNOUNCED LED TO EXTENSIVE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DEBATE, FURTHER STUDIES AND THE CREATION OF INTERESTED COMMITTEES. THE END RESULT HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT WATERING DOWN OF THE PROPOSALS TO THE POINT WHERE THEY MAY BE DIGESTIBLE BY THE FINANCIALLY BELEAGUERED GRZ.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EDUCATION  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** SEDU, SOCI, ZA  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014